

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Department of Environmental Management

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 20-1, 42-17.1, 42-17.2 and 42-17.6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island as amended, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act Chapter 42-35 of the General Laws of 1956, as amended, the Director of the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) proposes rulemaking relative to the RI Hunting Regulations for the 2016 – 2017, RI Freshwater Fishing Regulations for the 2017 - 2018 Season; and gives notice of intent to hold a public hearing to afford interested parties the opportunity for public comment. Public comments will be solicited on the following proposals:

Public comments will be solicited on the following proposals:

1. Proposed adoption of the RI Hunting Regulations for the 2016 - 2017 Season
2. Proposed adoption of the RI Freshwater Fishing Regulations for the 2017 - 2018

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Warwick Police Departments Community Room at 99 Veteran's Memorial Drive, Warwick. The hearing room is accessible to the handicapped. A recording of the hearing will be made and the DEM will provide interpreter services for the hearing impaired, provided such a request is made at least 48 hours prior to the hearing date. A request for this service can be made in writing or by calling (401) 222-6800 for TDD (401) 831-5508. Written comments concerning the regulations proposed for promulgation by the DEM may also be submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, 227 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, RI 02892 no later than 12:00 PM on May 17, 2016.

The proposed regulations will establish applicable hunting seasons, bag limits, and methods of taking and to establish the Freshwater annual season and bag limits for the 2017 - 2018 season.

A copy of all the proposed regulations will be available for examination from April 12, 2016 through May 17, 2016 by mail or at the offices of the Division of Fish and Wildlife located at 277 Great Neck Road, West Kingston, RI 02892, weekdays from 8:30 - 4:00 PM or by calling the Division at (401) 789-0281. Electronic copies of the proposed regulations will also be available on the DEM website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pn051716.htm>.

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 42-35-3 of the Rhode Island General Laws, DEM has made the following determinations. DEM has considered alternative approaches to the proposed regulations and has determined that there is no alternative approach among the alternatives considered that would be as effective and less burdensome. DEM has determined that the proposed regulations do not overlap/duplicate any other State regulations. DEM encourages the submission of written comments on the proposed regulations and above determinations prior to the date of the public hearing. All written comments should be sent to the Department at the address indicated above and should be received no later than 12:00 PM on **May 17, 2016**.

Janet L. Coit
Director, Department of Environmental Management

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